

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

TRSE-00 OMB-01 ABF-01 /066 W
----- 005547

R 021755Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3803

INFO SECDEF/GENERAL COUNSEL

USCINCEUR VAIHINGERN GE

SUEDAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBURG GE

DA/TJAG

CDR NATO/SHAPE SPT GP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MORG, CFED, BE

SUBJECT: TAX DIFFICULTIES WITH BELGIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 100861 (NOTAL)

1. APPRECIATE REFTTEL WHICH CLEARLY PROVIDED USG LEGAL POSITION ON TVA ISSUE AND AUTHORIZED EMBASSY TO DELIVER IT TO BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AS A DIPLOMATIC NOTE.

2. EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO IMPROVE THE PROPOSED NOTE.

(A) IT IS NOT ONLY THE BELGIAN TVA ADMINISTRATION (E.G., MINISTRY OF FINANCE) THAT INSISTS THAT TVA BE PAID. RATHER, AS WE REPORTED IN PARAS 3, 5 AND 6 OF BRUSSELS 3186, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE IS COORDINATED ON THIS ISSUE. WE PROPOSE TO SUBSTITUTE QUOTE GOUVERNEMENT UNQUOTE FOR QUOTE TVA ADMINISTRATION UNQUOTE WHENEVER LATTER IS USED.

(B) THE QUARTERS NOTED (17 PLUS 16) ARE ONLY THE PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEM. AS REPORTED BRUSSELS 3517 THE 20 TO 25 BACHELOR

ENLISTED APARTMENTS PROJECTED FOR THE MONS AREA AND THE LOC ARE BOTH CERTAIN TO CREATE SIMILAR ISSUES. REQUEST WASHINGTON PROVIDE US WITH APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE TO INCORPORATE IN NOTE TO COVER FORESEEABLE FUTURE CASES AS WELL AS PRESENT ONES.

(C) WE BELIEVE NOTE SHOULD ADDRESS QUESTION OF DEFINITION OF US QUOTE MILITARY FORCES UNQUOTE. BELGIANS HAVE ON TWO OCCASIONS QUESTIONED OUR ARGUMENTS MADE ON THIS BASIS WHEN APPLIED TO QUARTERS ADMINISTRATIVELY PROVIDED BY NATO/SHAPE SUPPORT GROUP TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ACTUALLY ARE PART OF US MISSION TO NATO OR NATO INTERNATIONAL STAFF (BRUSSELS 3012, PARA 5 AND BRUSSELS 3186, PARA 5). REQUEST WASHINGTON PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE TO COVER PERSONS IN THIS CATEGORY.

(D) WE PROPOSE TO ELIMINATE REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR VERWILGHEN AND ATTRIBUTE POSITIONS AND VIEWS HE EXPRESSED TO THE QUOTE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM UNQUOTE FOR WHICH HE SPOKE EXPLICITLY (SEE BRUSSELS 3186).

(E) WE BELIEVE PHRASE QUOTE . . . EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS . . . TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE UNDERSTANDING UNQUOTE SHOULD BE DELETED. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT IF WE PROPOSE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS MORE FORMAL THAN PRESENT SOUNDING OUT OF POSITIONS, BELGIANS WOULD FIND OTHER ASPECTS OF APRIL 7, 1952 AGREEMENT THEY MIGHT LIKE TO DISCUSS, LEADING TO POSSIBLY A REQUEST FOR RENEGOTIATION OF THAT AGREEMENT. BEFORE OPENING PANDORA'S BOX, WE SUGGEST THAT IMPLICATIONS OF DOING SO BE EXAMINED WITH CARE AND THAT DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE FOR THE PRESENT BY EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

3. REQUEST THAT FURTHER CABLE TRAFFIC ON THIS SUBJECT BE SENT DIRECTLY TO ALL ADDRESSEES OF THIS MSG TO PERMIT EASIER LATERAL COORDINATION AND ENSURE THAT ALL INTERESTED ELEMENTS ARE FULLY AWARE OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS. FIRESTONE

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